

THE



January 2010

 **Air Force Outstanding Unit
2009 Distinguished Flying Unit**

COYOTE LOG

Volume 52, Number 1

Coyotes receive gift from First Lady

by Tech. Sgt. Angela Brees

A special gift awaited 190th Air Refueling Wing members at this year's holiday party - gift bags personally filled by First Lady Michelle Obama, Dr. Jill Biden and scores of volunteers from Washington D.C.

Forbes Field was one of three bases selected to receive the gift bags. Families of deployed Marines at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and families of deployed Naval personnel from Little Creek, Va., will also receive care packages in December.

"This type of support solidifies what it means to be citizen soldiers and Airmen in the National Guard," said Col. Keith Lang, 190th ARW commander. "It's great to see the businesses and organizations that our Airmen may work for exemplify their respect for the service and sacrifice of our service members and their families."

Blue Star Families, the organization that spearheaded the effort, teamed up with Target and PBS to present 190th ARW families with the gift bag, which included a camera, an electronic key chain, board game, and gift certificates. The bags also came with a special handwritten note from a volunteer, thanking the veteran for their service and recognizing the sacrifice made by military families.

"Blue Star Families created this care package program to provide some welcome care and comfort to our deployed families, and to let them know that America supports them and is thankful for their service," said Claire Woodward, executive director of Blue Star Families.

see "First Lady" page 5



Roles changing for today's Airmen

By Capt. Tanya Wehrli

190th Force Sustainment Squadron Commander



The role of the Airman is continually evolving. Not so long ago there were clear lines between the United States military services and the responsibilities they carried in defending our nation's freedoms. As we start 2010 it is fair to say that those roles are blending. The following is an excerpt from a young senior airman who deployed to a war torn part of the world. She is a USAF personnel specialist assigned to a Personnel Support for Contingency Operations (PERSCO) team. Her deployed responsibilities were intended to be deployed accountability and personnel action assistance. As you will see in the letter she wrote to a mentor and former supervisor, her experiences at the deployed location were far from ordinary.

I got deployed to Afghanistan. Actually it was weird cause my friend and I got deployed at the same time. Our mission required convoys outside the wire. NO, we weren't doing PERSCO stuff. Instead we were doing a totally different personnel job. We worked with the Army, Navy, and the British. In fact, at one point, my direct supervisor was a British Naval officer and my next supervisor was a US Navy Lieutenant.

Ok, so when we landed in Kabul, IT WAS CRAZY! We didn't do the Air Force type of personnel job. When we first got there, the second in command (Navy 0-5) pulled both of us in her office and told us that one of us would be her driver and the other would be her gunner. She goes outside the camp for meetings at the NATO building (which is by the way the #2 target for bombings). She also mentioned that she had received a death threat a week ago so we had to be vigilant.

From a personnelist's standpoint, I was like, "oh my GOOOSH! I just do paperwork, but now I'm a real soldier up in this place!" Then my sponsor was telling me that our camp had been attacked a couple of months before (they hit a tanker truck that exploded and killed two and injured many more.) He said that it

was just a matter of time before another attack happened. At this point I was truly scared.

The thing is, both of us worked for CSTC-A (Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan). Our main job was to mentor and recruit people, and report numbers to the White House for their budget. So part of our job was to travel to different districts and provinces and in-process new recruits. I traveled with an Army specialist and our team lead, an Army colonel. We traveled with his interpreter and two Afghan locals.

The specialist did the biometrics part and the Navy traveled with us to do the medical part. For a month straight I went from one district to another traveling via airplane, convoy, MRAP or Cougar. We visited different forward operating bases (FOB) and camps. I kid you not, one camp we went to did not even have female facilities because it was so remote. At some camps we lived in tents and in others we lived like kings.

One time I was emailing the folks back home and BOOM, my computer screen shook! Turns out a suicide bomber detonated himself outside the camp. A couple of days after that the FOB I was staying at up north got rocketed. We were in bunkers with our gear till they gave the all clear. In the meantime, as I was up north, we received news that our home base also got attacked. Some parts of the NATO building were gone and over 20 people were killed. IT IS SO SURREAL! It is crazy!!!!

I remember one day when we rolled out on two convoys to pick up our flight suits from a different camp. On the way back, we had to pick up paperwork from an Afghan Army training camp. As we were about to leave, they told us they found a bomb that the Russians left years ago. We had to secure the area till the explosive ordinance team arrived. I never thought that I would see a bomb! And seriously, how many times do you say to yourself, "oh I'm just going to pick up paperwork" and then find a bomb?

Now I know the importance of being "fit to fight". Over there, you're a soldier first and a personnelist second. We sleep with our weapon, eat with it, and take it to the bathroom with us. Outside we are on amber or red status.

The Afghan people in general are very friendly. I do feel bad sometimes how some people treat our interpreters, like they are second class citizens. I feel like it's their country so we should respect them. Heck, they go out with us, risk their lives, and fight along with us so as far as I'm concerned we are equal.

As the author's message validates, our roles as Airmen are changing. Now more than ever it is essential that we remain prepared for the expected and unexpected alike.

Coyote Log Staff

Col. Keith Lang

Commander, 190th Air Refueling Wing

Maj. Chris Hill

Wing Executive Staff Officer

Capt. Joe Blubaugh

Chief of Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Angela Brees

Public Affairs - Print NCOIC

Staff Sgt. Emily F. Alley

Public Affairs - Print

Master Sgt. Allen Pickert

Visual Information & Communications Mgr

Tech. Sgt. Mandy Johnson

Photo Journalist

Senior Airman Jake Meyer

Visual Information Specialist

Airman First Class Chelsea Atkins

Public Affairs Admin. Support

190th Information Systems Branch

Printing / Distribution

190th Public Affairs / Coyote Log
190ARW.PA.CoyoteLog@ang.af.mil

POC: Maj. Chris Hill

(785)861-4593

www.190arw.af.mil

On the cover:

2nd Lt. Ellisha Smith receives a gift bag from Blue Star Families during the 190th Holiday Party.

(photo by Staff Sgt. Emily Alley)

(photo illustration by Senior Airman Jake Meyer)

The *Coyote Log*, published monthly, is a US Air Force funded newspaper for members of the U.S. Military Services. Contents of the *Coyote Log* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 190th ARW Public Affairs Office.



190th ARW Holiday Party 2009

Vehicle decals no longer required

By Senior Master Sgt. Clark Hansen
190th Security Forces Squadron

Effective immediately, Forbes Air National Guard Base will discontinue the practice of issuing DD Form 2220 window decals for your personal vehicle.

The Air Force has strictly adhered to 100 percent credential checks at installation gates since 9/11, making the check of a vehicle decal unnecessary. Additionally, vehicle owners are more efficiently tracked through state license plates, not military decal numbers. The burden of time and cost associated with registering your POV on the base is not enhancing our force protection posture.

The Air Force stopped requiring

bases to issue the window decals effective March 15, 2007. However, visitors will still require a base pass (AF Form 75) from the gate sentry.

What do you do with old window decals? You have a couple of choices.

First, you can scrape off your window decals. Before you do this, please write down the DD Form 2220 number on a piece of paper and include your name, rank and social security number. Give this information to the 190th Security

Forces Pass and Registration office located in building 2005, room B217, so they can delete your vehicle from the database.

Second, you can keep the window decals on your vehicle.

Please note that when the year sticker expires you will not receive a new one from Pass and Registration.



Coyote volunteers make winter wonderful

By Tech. Sgt. John Fagan
Acting President, First Five Council

Winter Wonderland celebrated 12 years of brightness this year. This event is a community favorite which raises funds for the Topeka Association for Retarded Citizens (TARC) to provide essential services and support to infants, children, adults and seniors with developmental and related disabilities.

The event runs from the Thursday before Thanksgiving to December 31st each year and averages more than 51,000 visitors.

On December 5th, the 190th ARW hosted the busiest night of the season welcoming 523 vehicles carrying more than 2,000 visitors! Of the more than 500 vehicles, 331 were from Shawnee County, 174 vehicles from surrounding Kansas counties and 18 vehicles from different states. On that evening alone, visitors redeemed 44 Winter Wonderland tickets and purchased 578 pairs of Razzle Dazzle glasses. We raised \$4,054.00 to support TARC and the services they provide.

The First Five Council organized the event and volunteers ranged from junior enlisted to officers and included numerous family and friends.

The recession has made the annual fundraiser all that much more important according to TARC Development Director Dawn McWilliams. "This year was a rough year

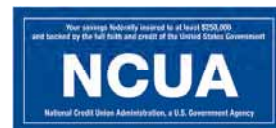
for TARC with budget cuts, and the recent announcement of additional cuts are even deeper and more severe," said McWilliams. "Winter Wonderland is such an important event to TARC to raise funds needed to provide vital services to infants, children, adults and seniors with developmental related disabilities. We could not do it without you!"

"Thank you for what you do for our country and thank you for making such a difference in the lives of those citizens that reside in your community. I felt so very honored and privileged to meet and work beside you."



The Kansas Air Guard Credit Union awards two \$500 scholarships each spring and fall semester. The spring scholarship application deadline is **January 15, 2010**.

*Must be a credit union member to apply.



Kansas Air Guard Credit Union
5920 SE Coyote Drive | Forbes Field ANGB, Bldg 662
Topeka, KS 66619
Phone: 785-861-4093 | Fax: 785-861-4096
ksagcu@yahoo.com

Yellow Ribbon program streamlines reintegration

By Staff Sgt. Emily Alley
190th Public Affairs

"Welcome!" announced Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, as he greeted warriors to the first joint Yellow Ribbon event in Kansas. "And welcome home!"

The room was filled with Soldiers, Airmen and their families who were reintegrating after various deployments. Bunting is familiar with the mobilization process- in 28 years of marriage, he claims to have only spent five years at home with his wife, Barbara.

"I think that number is closer to three years," she added.

Mrs. Bunting appreciates that families are included in events such as Yellow Ribbon. The program did not exist a few years ago, but now works to streamline the mobilization process. Presenters speak about chaplains, psychological health, finance, veterans' benefits and much more. One reintegration program,

which only exists in Kansas, is an optional 30 days of duty after deployment designed for those who lack job opportunities when they return. This information may be familiar to some deployers, but not necessarily to families.

Senior Airman Sharilyn Mathews, from 190th ARW Security Forces, was a military spouse before joining the unit. She was unaware of the Tricare benefits she was eligible for and would have preferred to be more informed. She and her husband will be attending a Yellow Ribbon event for her upcoming deployment.

"I hope everyone walks away from this training with more tools," said Barbara Bunting. "Knowing other people who feel how you feel, if nothing else they'll have a number to call."

Yellow Ribbon events are mandatory for deployers from any branch, who are deployed for 90 cumulative days or more in a calendar year. Although Air Force deployments are structured differently from the Army, the training is still essential. When possible, it is combined to not only make it more efficient, but also because joint training is more consistent with mobilization.

"We were deployed to a joint environment so it makes sense to reintegrate into a joint environment," said Major Joe Dessenberger, commander of the 184th Security Forces Squadron that returned from Saudi Arabia in late November.

One of Berger's deployers was Staff Sgt. Matthew Sutherland, who appreciated having the information from the briefings. Although the event consumed one of his first weekends home, he thought presentations, such as those of the chaplain, were valuable.

"It's taxing," said Sutherland. "It cuts into my personal time, but they tell you these things for a reason."

Sutherland also enjoyed the size of the event and said it made the homecoming feel more official. As a single Airman, he faces unique challenges in deployment. Even the most supportive

group of friends may not entirely understand adjustment.

"We've gotten better at taking care of our people," said Bunting. "Take advantage of all the programs we have to offer."

First Lady - Cont. from page 1

Communications Flight member Senior Airman Rachael Ortega, who brought her 7-year-old niece, Allison, to the party, was excited to learn about the Blue Star Families organization.

"The bags were great, and it was great learning more about Blue Star Families and what they do for military families," she said. "I may even join."

Master Sgt. Kristina Perkins, Operational Support Flight, was equally excited about the gift bags.

"These bags are so cool," Perkins said. "The cameras in there - wow! Everyone is loving them."

Denise Winton, Family Readiness Coordinator, and planner of this year's holiday party, appreciated the significance of these donations.

"Someone may have a note from Mrs. Obama or Mrs. Biden. We are making history," she said.

"This is great effort made by these outstanding organizations," said, Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General. "With the holidays upon us, it offers a time of reflection for the gifts of freedom our service members have fought both home and abroad for."

Blue Star Families launched the "thx box" care package for military families at a Service Nation Veteran's Day event in Washington D.C. attended by First Lady Obama and Dr. Biden. Volunteers from Blue Star Families, City Year, George Washington University and groups around the D.C. area joined with Target team members to assemble more than 500 care packages.

117th ARS to hold pilot board



The **117th Air Refueling Squadron** will be accepting pilot applicant packages for a **Pilot Selection Board** to be held in February 2010.

Application package required contents and a current copy of *Road to Wings 2009* are available on the 117th ARS Portal Page.

Contact Captain Brian Correll, 117th ARS (brian.correll@ang.af.mil) or (785) 861-4670 for more information.

Applicant packages should be sent to: Lt. Col. Jarrod Frantz, 117th ARS, 5920 SE Coyote Dr, Topeka, KS 66619. The deadline for submitting packages is **8 January 2010**.

—Portrait of an Airman

Airman First Class Diane Torrez



Organization: 117th Air Refueling Squadron

Job Title: Personnel Specialist

Main Responsibilities: Processing officer and enlisted performance reports, retirements and promotions.

Civilian Career: Compliance coordinator for Security Benefits Group.

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Spanish. Currently pursuing a Masters in Business Administration at Baker University.

Military Experience: Just completed my first year in the Air National Guard.

Hobbies & Activities: I enjoy spending time with my fiancé, family and friends. I also enjoy working out, shopping, watching movies and playing with my little dog, Harley.

Goals & Ambitions: Graduate from Baker University with my Masters in Business Administration and possibly become an officer in the Air Guard.

Most Memorable 190th Moment: Leaving for Basic Military Training on June 23, 2009. It was very difficult leaving my fiancé and family behind.

Take time to review your SGLI, DEERS

By Chief Master Sgt. Ivan Perez
190th Force Sustainment Squadron



When was the last time you reviewed your Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) beneficiary designation? For a lot of us it may have been when we first enlisted.

Unfortunately, it can become one of those minor life details which can be easily overlooked as the years go by. However, you need to understand that a beneficiary designation will remain in effect until properly changed by the member. Please note that state divorce decrees, separation agreements or other state or municipal court documents are NOT binding on the determination of a beneficiary and CAN

NOT effectively change an insured's beneficiary designation.

You can find additional information regarding SGLI at www.insurance.va.gov. Please also verify the amount of coverage you have in place and your monthly premium by reviewing your Leave and Earning Statement.

You should review your DEERS information annually and update it as required. You must update your record at the Force Support Squadron anytime your status changes due to marriage, divorce, or if you have an additional dependent. Proper documentation will be required such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or birth certificate.

It is also important that your dependent's ID cards remain current. This continues to be an afterthought

until a member gets deployed and can contribute to unnecessary delays for TRICARE benefits while you are away.

You can find additional information at www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/overview/Eligibility/DEERS/Updating.

SGLI Premium Rates

| Coverage Amount | Premium |
|-----------------|---------|
| \$50,000 | \$4.25 |
| \$100,000 | \$7.50 |
| \$150,000 | \$10.75 |
| \$200,000 | \$14.00 |
| \$250,000 | \$17.25 |
| \$300,000 | \$20.50 |
| \$350,000 | \$23.75 |
| \$400,000 | \$27.00 |

For Your Information

Enlisted Promotions

SrA

Luke Bryan, CES
Kristopher Stewart, CES



SSgt

Matthew Aldrine, MXS



CMS

Mickel Coffin, MOF



Retirements

Lt. Col. Arthur Roveto, 117 ARS
Retirement Date: 31 Dec 09

SMSgt Shawn Gamber, HQ
Retirement Date: 31 Dec 09

MSgt Carolyn Wilson, HQ
Retirement Date: 31 Dec 09

190th Chapel Services

Latter Day Saints:
1100 - 1130 Sun

Catholic:
1345 - 1415 Sun

The Base Chapel is
located on the 3rd floor
of Hangar 662.



Please feel free to contact the base chaplain,
Capt. Jorge Arvelo, on his cell at (785)806-1254.

Appointments/Enlistments

A1C Randall J. Lord, AMXS
Enlistment Date: 17 Oct 09

A1C Jessica L. Snyder, AMXS
Enlistment Date: 17 Oct 09

AB Skyler K. Dubois, AMXS
Enlistment Date: 30 Oct 09

AB Christopher L. Hartwick, AMXS
Enlistment Date: 30 Oct 09

AB Jordan A. Hunt, MDG
Enlistment Date: 7 Nov 09

Officer Promotions

1st Lt.

Leslie Bolz, OSF
William Thomas, 117 ARS



Outstanding Performers

190th 2009 Airmen of the Year

Airman category - SrA Paul Deveau
NCO category - TSgt Jeffery Norling
SNCO category - SMSgt James Peterson

From the Shirt

It seems over the past few years, some members of the Air National Guard have lost the fundamental principle of personal accountability.

We are entrusted with the defense of this nation, but yet have become lackadaisical in things like wearing sunglasses on our head, carrying purses not within the AFI and even dare I say lacking our best effort on the fitness test. Some of us want the benefits of the military, without the rules!

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz said, "All who serve in uniform understand our obligation to the mission, to personal accountability and to order and discipline in our organizations; we will sustain our high standards, because the nature of our work depends on it. And our client, the American people, expect it."

As we begin this new year, may we all take an accountability check to preserve the respect of the American people!



Don't forget telecommuting!

The 190th ARW telecommuting policy that took affect last year was designed to help Traditional Guardsmen fight the rising cost of fuel by allowing them to work away from their official duty location.

With supervisor approval, telecommuters will be authorized up to four Unit Training Assembly (UTA) periods and two annual training days per fiscal year.

Telecommuters, their supervisors and the approving authority must sign a work agreement and a telecommuter checklist before work is started on the project. Only the wing commander and group commanders, or their written designees, have the approval authority for telecommuting and work agreements.

Telecommuters will be compensated in accordance with their duty status and must comply with appropriate pay status regulations. Travel and per diem will not be authorized for telecommuting.



During the month of December, Airman Devin Shrum, MDG, was found in violation of the base seatbelt regulation.

Please wear your seatbelts at all times! It is not only an Air Force and DOD directive – it's Kansas law.



Coyote Cafe January 2010 Menu



5 December

Boxed Lunches

(Issued at uke tunnel, Hangar 662)

6 December

Boxed Lunches

(Issued at uke tunnel, Hangar 662)

Hotel of the Month

Singles - Capitol Plaza

Singles pay - Ramada Inn

Doubles - Holidome/Comfort Inn

Friday night - Hyatt Place

All reservation requests must be submitted to FSS by 1000 on Saturday of the UTA.

Coyote Heritage



Last month we told you a story about how Captain Bill Fry (center with harness) and Lt. Gene Crackle (far left) had been the first two pilots to sign up for the new squadron to be formed at Hutchinson. We also told you how they had checked each other out in the F-80s (actually the T-33 trainer version) they would be flying at Hutchinson.

Here's some more of the story according to Fry. "Neither of us was current, but Crackle did have recent jet experience. Wichita had a flight simulator, and I spent a couple of hours in it before we flew. My first flight with Crackle was an experience. I had never been in a jet airplane and guess I expected something like an afterburner takeoff which did not happen in a T-33 trainer. After getting down the runway about halfway, it was like getting smacked with a board and we were airborne."

After getting off to a rough start, Fry was determined to improve. The next day, he and Crackle went up again, and to make a long story short, after some maneuvers, and some pretty tough tests by Crackle, Fry won a steak dinner, a bottle of whiskey and some respect from Crackle. Such was the beginning of flying operations at the 117th.



Please record your story and send it to the historian's office at: 190th Historian, 5920 SE Coyote Dr., Topeka, KS 66619-5370.



The Coyote Log
190th ARW Public Affairs
5920 SE Coyote Drive
Forbes Field (ANG)
Topeka, KS 66619-5370
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FIRST CLASS
MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 171
TOPEKA KS

**Moving? Don't forget to update your address:
Military Members: visit vMPF to update your address.
Retirees & Civilians: email 190ARW.PA.CoyoteLog@ang.af.mil. Please allow 2-3 months for updates to reflect on your log.**

To The Coyote Family of:

